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REVIEWS.

The Souls of Black Folk: Essays and Sketches. By W. E. B. DuBois, Professor of Economics and History in Atlanta University, Atlanta, Ga. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co. Pp. viii + 265. \$1.20, *net*.

IN this volume of essays and sketches Professor DuBois approaches the many-sided negro question with the confidence and conviction of a master, and with the grace and beauty of a poet. The crux of the problem, as he views it, is the adequate training of the black man in the higher industrial and intellectual education. To him the all-important product of this education "must be neither a psychologist nor a brickmason, but a man;" and in this particular the efforts of the southern universities for the training of negroes are of great and far-reaching importance.

The author is at his best in an unbiased consideration of the negro's emotional nature. In the chapter "Of Our Spiritual Strivings" he outlines the struggles in which this emotionalism involves the black man. That there can be no doubt of the preponderance of misdirected emotionalism is evidenced in the rapidity with which the negro swings from love to hate, from laughter to tears.

But Professor DuBois most clearly comprehends that peculiar phase of interracial strivings which brings about the control of a man by the possession of those agents and forces which furnish him the means of subsistence. It appears that, through ignorance of conditions and lack of business foresight, the negro farmer is a ready victim for the white trader and cotton buyer. Being generally restricted by his landlord to the raising of cotton, he makes the crop either on shares or under a crop or chattel mortgage for provisions advanced during the period of cultivation. The chances of freedom from debt are thus the slightest, being dependent upon the success of a crop planted in an already over-worked soil and upon the price offered by the buyer. The relation which the white "furnisher" sustains to the black farmer thus becomes practically that of slaver and enslaved. The struggles and the unhopefulness of the negro under this industrial bondage are thoughtfully discussed in the two chapters which deal with the "Black Belt."

Under the caption "Of Booker T. Washington and Others" he gradually delineates the origin and evolution of negro leadership and the conditions incident to each cycle of change and progress. His attitude toward Mr. Washington is one dictated by radical difference of opinion. While tolerant of Mr. Washington's views and deeply grateful for his assistance in the efforts for racial uplift, he does not fail to emphasize the possible interpretation that Mr. Washington, by his silence in regard to the political activity of the negro, lends influence and confirmation to the advocates of negro disfranchisement.

The chapters "Of the Faith of Our Fathers" and "The Sorrow Songs" give a vivid picture of the credulity of the negro and the power of his soul to express in plaintive melody his soul-sorrows and strivings.

As a practical solution of the color-line problem, which is assuredly assuming national importance, Professor DuBois's book cannot be said to do more than offer the rich hints from a vast store of sympathy and knowledge. Yet it is, indeed, the best statement of the factors that greatly complicated the negro's life and destiny in America and which tend largely to segregate him as a "group within a group." The author feels intensely and expresses beautifully the soul-sighs and the spirit of unhopefulness, which are the heir-looms of slavery and oppression, of those "who dwell within the Veil," shut out from the greater and freer life by ignorance, oppression, ostracism, and infant strength of purpose and ambition. Although conscious of the fact that the negro is hardly self-effectual and that the future's sky is over-dark, he has shown a depth of sympathetic investigation and a seriousness of purposeful expression which everywhere strive with the reader and influence him to the thought that now we are coming to a systematic discussion and an intelligent striving from which shall ultimately be born that time, long written of and striven for, when all men shall enjoy the inalienable rights of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

THEOPHILUS BOLDEN STEWARD.

L'origine degli Indo-Europei. By E. DE MICHELIS. Torino : Fratelli Bocca, 1903. Pp. viii+699. Lire 15.

THIS bulky volume is No. 12 in the *Biblioteca di Scienze Moderne*, which includes, among works of native authors, Italian translations of